

What is claimed is:

1. A method of splicing an incoming network feed having a network time slot duration and an associated vbv_delay with a commercial slot duration having an associated
5 vbv_delay comprising:
 - (a) manipulating the commercial slot vbv_delay between one of a minimum delay and a maximum delay,
 - (b) outputting pictures from the compressed commercial slot for at least a portion of the network time slot duration,
 - 10 (c) determining the number of pictures remaining from one of a stored portion of the incoming network feed and the commercial slot and adjusting the output rate as required to output the commercial slot, and
 - (d) adjusting one of the vbv_delay of stored network feed and the vbv_delay of the local commercial slot to match the vbv_delay of the incoming network feed.
- 15 2. The method of claim 1 comprising manipulating the commercial slot vbv_delay for a maximum delay.
- 20 3. The method of claim 2 comprising outputting pictures from the compressed commercial slot for the network time slot duration.
4. The method of claim 3 comprising outputting any remaining pictures from the commercial slot by, storing at least a portion of the incoming network feed, outputting the remaining pictures at an increased output rate and then outputting the stored portion
25 of the network feed and adjusting network time slot vbv_delay until the vbv_delay of stored network feed matches the vbv_delay of the incoming network feed.
5. The method of claim of claim 2 wherein the compressed commercial slot duration is manipulated to have a 30.5 second duration.
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6. The method of claim 5 wherein the network time slot duration is based on a Decode Time Stamp and a network time slot duration time tolerance and wherein the stored

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portion of the network feed is at least as large as the difference between the 30.5 seconds and the network time slot duration.

7. The method of claim 1 comprising manipulating the commercial slot vbv_delay for a
5 minimum delay.

8. The method of claim 7 comprising outputting pictures from the compressed
commercial slot for at least a portion of the network time slot duration.

10 9. The method of claim 8 comprising determining the number of pictures remaining
from the commercial slot and adjusting the output rate as required to complete the
network time slot duration, and adjusting the local commercial slot vbv_delay to match
the vbv_delay of the incoming network feed.

15 10. The method of claim of claim 7 wherein the compressed commercial slot duration is
manipulated to have a 29.5 second duration.

11. The method of claim 10 wherein the network time slot duration is based on a
Decode Time Stamp and a network time slot duration time tolerance and the compressed
20 commercial slot is output for 29 seconds such that 15 pictures remain from the
commercial slot, wherein the output rate of the 15 remaining pictures is determined
based on the difference between the network time slot duration and 29.5 seconds.

12. A method of splicing an incoming network feed having a network time slot duration
25 and an associated vbv_delay with a commercial slot duration having an associated
vbw_delay comprising:

- (a) manipulating the commercial slot vbw_delay for a maximum delay,
- (b) outputting pictures from the compressed commercial slot for the network time slot
duration, and
- 30 (c) outputting any remaining pictures from the commercial slot by, storing at least a
portion of the incoming network feed, outputting the remaining pictures at an increased
output rate and then outputting the stored network feed and adjusting network time slot

vbv_delay until the vbv_delay of stored network feed matches the vbv_delay of the incoming network feed.

13. The method of claim of claim 12 wherein the compressed commercial slot duration is
5 manipulated to have a 30.5 second duration.

14. The method of claim 13 wherein the network time slot duration is based on a Decode Time Stamp and a network time slot duration time tolerance and wherein the stored portion of the network feed is at least as large as the difference between the 30.5 seconds
10 and the network time slot duration.

15. A method of splicing an incoming network feed having a network time slot duration and an associated vbv_delay with a commercial slot duration having an associated vbv_delay comprising:

15 (a) manipulating the commercial slot vbv_delay for a minimum delay,
(b) outputting pictures from the compressed commercial slot for at least a portion of the network time slot duration, and
(c) determining the number of pictures remaining from the commercial slot and adjusting the output rate as required to complete the network time slot duration, and adjusting the
20 local commercial slot vbv_delay to match the vbv_delay of the incoming network feed.

16. The method of claim of claim 15 wherein the compressed commercial slot duration is manipulated to have a 29.5 second duration.

25 17. The method of claim 16 wherein the network time slot duration is based on a Decode Time Stamp and a network time slot duration time tolerance and the compressed commercial slot is output for 29 seconds such that 15 pictures remain from the commercial slot, wherein the output rate of the 15 remaining pictures is determined based on the difference between the network time slot duration and 29.5 seconds.

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18. A method of splicing an incoming network feed having a network time slot duration and an associated vbv_delay with a commercial slot duration having an associated vbv_delay comprising:

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- (a) storing and delaying at least a portion of the incoming network feed,
- (b) determining the network time slot duration based on a Decode Time Stamp and a network time slot duration time tolerance,
- (c) manipulating the commercial slot vbv_delay so that the commercial slot duration substantially matches the network time slot duration, and
- (d) outputting the incoming network feed after completion of the network time slot duration.